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"EXTRA SESSION."—There is some talk of an extra session of Congress being convened. The State Department is in great activity. Mr. Buchanan was closeted for some time with the President on Thursday, and despatches have been handed in by Mr. Pakenham, about which much anxiety is felt, and the reply looked for with considerable interest. It appears to be the prevailing opinion there that Mr. Polk will not retreat from the position he has assumed in his inaugural.

We do not know where our friends of the New York Mirror get the information upon which this paragraph, copied from their paper of Saturday evening, is founded. As, however, they doubtless give credit to it, having assisted in giving it circulation, it is proper that they and others should be undeceived.

We think it quite likely that Mr. Buchanan did transact business with Mr. Polk on Thursday, as he probably does so every day in the week; but all the rest of the information contained in this paragraph has very little better foundation, if any, than the lively imagination of whoever furnished it. There is no talk here, at least, of an Extra Session of Congress. There is no extraordinary "activity" in the Department of State, that we have heard of; the Secretary, we believe, eats, drinks, smokes his cigar, and sleeps as usual. We do not hear of any particular despatches "handed in by Mr. Pakenham," nor of course of any "anxiety" felt about them, or any "reply" to them that is "looked for with considerable interest." These intimations, from whatever source, are entitled to none of the consequence which appears to be given to them.

As to the feverishness which seems to have prevailed in the commercial and moneyed circles of one or two of our large cities in consequence of the recent tone of the British government and press on the subject of Oregon, it ought to be recollected that that question rests with this government, and that any actual agitation of it must begin here, at the Capitol. The wisdom of the Senate at the late Session of Congress postponed that agitation until the next Session, before the arrival of which it may be hoped, of the good sense and good feeling of the two governments, to be "postponed altogether." Come when it may, however, the existing treaty secures a year's interval from the first step to the last in any change of position of the two countries in relation to that question.

INTERESTING EXCURSION.

The expedition promised in the subjoined note from the gentleman who has conceived the great project of what may be called the Continental Railway, is certainly a very inviting one to such as propose to themselves a summer's travel. Such a trip will not only offer all the usual pleasures of a journey over a wide, a various, an important, and little-traversed region, but couple with it an object worthy of the attention, and probably the advantage, of an intelligent company, able, by their diversity of knowledge, to assist and inform each other as to every thing that may present itself along their route, in geology and other parts of natural history or science.

Without pretending as yet to offer any decided opinion as to the feasibility of Mr. Whitney's bold idea, we confess that its mere vastness, though suggesting to many the notion of its being visionary, by no means implies, of itself, to us, such a conclusion; and any thing that forbids, therefore, the prosecution of a careful examination of the possibilities of his plan. We know that many much more competent than we to judge of the scheme are already convinced of its reasonableness.

Certainly, then, since the proposed means of effecting the object may prove adequate, and, if adequate, dispense with the raising of capital either abroad or at home by moneyed subscription; since the line of lands to be granted by our Government will derive its value from the execution of the work itself; since the gift will, if the thing succeeds, add a worth to the contiguous territory which will more than replace to our public domain the price of what is to be parted with; since, if the plan fail, the grant is to revert; and, since, on the other hand, if it succeeds, the national and commercial benefits attained must be very great, we must avoid ourselves persuaded that the scheme deserves to be very seriously examined, and by no means utterly rejected as extravagant.

Nor is it to be overlooked that at least the first step in the proposed line of communication seems quite practicable—the road from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi—an object highly worthy of being realized, and for which the face of the country to be traversed offers unusual facilities. We are disposed at present to think that this part of the project may readily be accomplished by the proposed means; and that probably a surplus of resources might be left that would go far towards the remainder of the work.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 23, 1845.

Messrs. GALE & SEATON: It is my intention to pass over, examine, and partially survey seven or eight hundred miles of the proposed route for the Railroad from Lake Michigan to the Pacific.

I shall leave New York about the 20th May for Green Bay, follow the Lake down to Milwaukee, thence west to the Missouri river, and return by St. Louis.

Several young gentlemen of high respectability and education will accompany me, and it will please me to have our number increased.

The excursion will be pleasant, beneficial to health, and useful in the knowledge to be gained of that vast country; and, should the project for the railroad succeed, those who now accompany me can be usefully and advantageously employed in the great work.

It will please me to have some young gentlemen of the South join us; and I shall be happy to communicate with any so disposed.

Truly yours,
A. WHITNEY,
41 William street, New York.

The United States squadron under the command of Comm. Stockton sailed from Hampton Roads, with sealed orders, early on Sunday morning. Its destination is supposed to be the Gulf of Mexico.

LATER FROM MEXICO.

Advices from Vera Cruz to the 12th instant have been received at New Orleans.

Mr. SHANNON, the American Minister, had retired to Tacubaya, and was expected to take his departure for the United States in a few days.

The British frigate *Eurydice* arrived at Vera Cruz on the morning of the 12th instant from Galveston with despatches, which were immediately forwarded to the capital.

An American squadron, consisting of the frigate *Potomac*, sloop *Falmouth*, and brigs *Fairfield* and *Somers*, was spoken at sea on the 17th instant, bound to Vera Cruz.

The papers of the city of Mexico and of Vera Cruz continue to be occupied almost exclusively with the subject of Annexation. The official paper, *El Diario del Gobierno*, of the 3d instant announces that it is in possession of certain movements on the part of the Government of a warlike character, which it is constrained to withhold from the public, as secrecy is the soul of military operations; but expresses a hope that the speedy and successful issue of these operations will soon relieve the public curiosity in regard to them.

The papers contain the following correspondence between Señor CUEVAS and Mr. SHANNON, which we copy as translated for the New Orleans Picayune:

NATIONAL PALACE, MEXICO, MARCH 28, 1845.

The undersigned, Minister of Foreign Relations, in addressing himself for the last time to his excellency Mr. WILSON SHANNON, Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States, desires to inform him that, as both Houses of the United States Congress have sanctioned the law in relation to the annexation of Texas to the territory of the United States, and as the Minister from Mexico has withdrawn from his mission at Washington, and protested against the act of Congress and the Government of the United States, diplomatic relations between the two countries cannot be continued.

What can the undersigned add to what has already been said by his Government upon the grave offence offered Mexico by the United States, usurping a portion of Mexican territory, and violating the terms of treaties of friendship, which the Republic of Mexico has observed on her part as long as her honor and the desire to avoid a rupture with the United States have permitted? Nothing more than to lament that two nations, free and republican, contiguous (*vecinos*) and worthy of a fraternal union, founded upon mutual interests and a common and honorable loyalty, should have cut short their friendly relations, and by an act as offensive to Mexico as it is derogatory to the honor of the American Union.

The undersigned renews to his excellency Mr. Shannon the protest already directed against annexation; and, moreover, would add, that the Mexican Republic will oppose the measure with all the decision due to her own honor and sovereignty, and that the Government ardently desires that considerations of loyalty and justice should yet outweigh the citizens of the United States designs for extending their territory at the expense of a friendly Republic, which, in the midst of its misfortunes, (*disgracias*), seeks to preserve an unspotted name, and thereby the rank to which its destinies call it.

The undersigned has the honor to offer to his excellency Mr. Shannon his personal respect, and to assure him of his very distinguished consideration.

LUIS G. CUEVAS.

To his Excellency WILSON SHANNON,
Envoy Extraordinary,
Mexico.

UNITED STATES LEGATION, MARCH 31, 1845.

The undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary, &c. of the United States, has the honor of acknowledging the receipt of his excellency's, Señor CUEVAS's, Minister of Foreign Relations, &c., note of the 28th of March, announcing that the Congress of the United States has sanctioned the annexation of Texas to its territory; that the Mexican Minister at Washington had terminated his official relations and protested against the said act of the Congress and Government of the United States; and that diplomatic relations between the two countries could not be continued.

The liberal and honorable sentiments entertained by the actual Government of Mexico had induced the undersigned to hope that the differences which exist between the two Governments could be arranged amicably, upon terms just and honorable to both. It would appear, however, from the note of his excellency Señor CUEVAS that Mexico declines to adopt these differences in this manner, and thus preserve the peace of the two countries.

The undersigned can assure his excellency Señor CUEVAS that his (Mr. Shannon's) Government entertains the liveliest desire to cultivate amicable relations with that of Mexico; and here he will improve this opportunity to repeat that which he has before communicated to the Government of Mexico, to wit, that the United States has not adopted the measure of annexation in any spirit of hostility towards Mexico, and that the United States are anxious to settle all questions which may grow out of this measure, including that of boundaries, in terms the most just and liberal.

Having desired the olive branch of peace, and manifested sincere desire to arrange these questions amicably, and upon principles just and honorable to both Governments, the United States have done whatever is in their power to preserve the friendly relations between them, and it now remains for Mexico to decide whether they shall be continued, or whether the peace of the two countries shall be broken by a conflict equally injurious to both, and which can give satisfaction only to the enemies of civil liberty and republican institutions.

The undersigned will pass over in silence the charge made against his Government of having violated the treaty of friendship with Mexico. The right of Texas to cede the whole or a part of her territory to the United States, and the right of the United States to accept such cession, have already been amply vindicated repeatedly.

The undersigned has received no official communication to the action of his Government in regard to the annexation of Texas to the Union; nevertheless, he cannot doubt, from the tenor of his personal correspondence, that the measure has been passed by Congress and approved by the President. He expects daily despatches from his Government, with special instructions upon this subject, and, before taking any further steps, has resolved to await their arrival.

The undersigned has the honor, &c.

WILSON SHANNON.

NATIONAL PALACE, MEXICO, APRIL 2, 1845.

The undersigned, Minister of Foreign Relations, has the honor to communicate to his excellency Mr. Shannon, Minister, &c., in reply to the note of his Excellency of the 31st March, that the Government of Mexico cannot continue diplomatic relations with the United States upon the presumption that such relations are reconcilable with the law which the President of the United States has approved in regard to the annexation of the Department of Texas to the American Union; that this determination is founded upon the necessity which Mexico is under of maintaining no friendship with a Republic which has violated her obligations, usurped a portion of territory which belongs to Mexico by a right which she will maintain at whatever cost, that the relations between the two countries cannot be re-established before a complete reparation of that injury, (*agravio*), such as is demanded by good faith, justice to Mexico, and the honor of the United States, is made. Moreover, the undersigned will take the liberty to say to his excellency Mr. Shannon, that if the United States Government thinks that it entertained friendly sentiments towards

Mexico at the time of giving such offence, and when attacking the integrity of the Republic of Mexico, this Government (Mexico) is very far from entertaining the same views, or of acquiescing in the assurance which his excellency Mr. Shannon has given, whatever may be its sentiments towards his Excellency personally.

The undersigned, in making this announcement to his excellency Mr. Shannon, doing so by the order of the President of Mexico—cutting short a new discussion which the interruption of the relations of the two countries will not permit, and because nothing can be added to what this Department has already said—has the honor to renew the assurance of his very distinguished consideration.

LUIS G. CUEVAS.

Señor CUEVAS has also addressed a general circular to the Ministers Plenipotentiary of England, France, and Spain, which is translated as follows:

The undersigned, Minister of Foreign Relations, has the honor to transmit to his excellency the Minister of — the following circular, being impelled to employ this means of transmitting to his (your) Government, in this note, the solemn and formal protest of the Mexican Republic, suggested by an act which, wounding to the last degree the rights and honor of Mexico, is equally destructive to the universal principles of justice, to the respect due free and intelligent nations, and the good faith which civilization has fixed as the basis of international intercourse, (*internacional politica*). His excellency Señor — will understand that the undersigned has reference to the law passed by the Congress of the United States, and sanctioned by the Executive, for the annexation of the Department of Texas to the American Union.

To present, in all its deformity, this act of the Congress and Government of the United States, the alarming consequences of its conduct towards the Mexican Republic, would be a useless labor, inasmuch as this note is addressed to the representative of a nation as illustrious as it is powerful, which, sustaining nobly the rank which it occupies in the world, respects the laws of comity (*buenos amos*) between foreign nations, and founds its glory upon the immutable titles of morality and justice. The Government of the undersigned has no occasion to exhibit all the grounds upon which it relies for its resistance to this measure of annexation, as they are obvious and known to all, and as the feeling excited among friendly nations, and even those which have no official relations with Mexico, will be profound upon learning of a measure so injurious and offensive to Mexico, and so utterly unworthy the honor (*buen nombre*) of the United States.

But the undersigned will take occasion to observe to his excellency Señor — that the American Government having been the first to acknowledge the independence of the Republic of Mexico, showing itself a zealous partisan of liberty, has been the only one which has endeavored to usurp a portion of her territory. He would also add, that as it appears from recent declarations, the designs of the United States have been as old as the friendship which it was sought to confirm, first by a treaty of amity, and by another for the adjustment of boundaries, which has now been completely violated. In aiding Texas to sever herself from the Republic, the United States were wanting in good faith; but in aiding to incorporate Texas with the American Confederation, and declaring that this has been her policy for twenty years, she has pursued a course which has no parallel in the history of civilized nations.

Mexico, to avoid differences which for the most part had no foundation in justice, [as against her], has submitted to serious compromises; she has overlooked provocations and injuries, and has preserved her loyalty with such fidelity as to give her more right—if the right she possesses can be increased—to speak out and protest, as the undersigned now does, against the annexation of Texas to the United States, and against all its consequences. The Mexican Republic will employ in opposition to this measure her power and her resources; and, trusting in the justice of her cause, does not fear to give assurance that, whatever may be the result, she will preserve the honor which at any cost she ought to defend in the very grave matter under consideration.

With this view the undersigned requests his excellency Señor — to give this protest its proper direction, and at the same time to accept the assurances of his most distinguished consideration.

LUIS G. CUEVAS.

EARTHQUAKE IN MEXICO.

FROM THE NEW ORLEANS BEE OF APRIL 21.

We have been kindly furnished by a merchant of this city with the *Vera Cruzano* of the 12th, containing the account of an awful earthquake which desolated the city of Mexico on the 7th instant.

At the moment we write (says the *Siglo* of the 8th) the inhabitants of the capital of the republic are still under the influence of the horrors excited by the earthquake of yesterday, the disastrous effects of which we are still imperfectly acquainted with. Yesterday at fifty-two minutes past three o'clock P. M. the oscillations began, slight at first and then stronger. The direction of the motion appeared to be north and south. It lasted about two minutes. The shocks were terrible; nothing like them was ever experienced before, and the condition of the buildings too surely proves the absence of all exaggeration.

We were by chance upon the great square at the time, and we witnessed a spectacle not easily forgotten. In an instant the multitude, but a moment previous tranquil and listless, were upon their knees, praying to the Almighty and counting with anxiety the shocks which threatened to convert the beautiful city in the New World into a vast theatre of ruins. The chains surrounding the portico were violently agitated, the flags of the pavements yawned open, the trees bent frightfully, the buildings and lofty edifices oscillated to and fro, the immense arrow which crowns the summit of the cathedral vibrated with astonishing rapidity. At 56 minutes past three the movement had ceased.

It is impossible yet to ascertain the extent of destruction. Not a house or a door but bears the marks of this terrible calamity. Many of them are cracked and greatly injured, others are tottering, and others entirely fallen. San Lorenzo, La Misericordia, Tompepe, Zapot, and Victoria streets, and the Grand street have particularly suffered. The aqueducts were broken in several places. The bridge of Tezontale is demolished. The Hospital of Saint Lazarus is in ruins, and the churches of San Lorenzo and San Ferdinand greatly injured. The magnificent chapel of Saint Teresa no longer exists. At the first shock the cupola, a building of astonishing strength and great beauty, fell, and was followed by the vault beneath the tabernacle, and the tabernacle itself.

Fortunately all those in a church so much frequented succeeded in escaping. At eight o'clock last evening seventeen persons had been taken from the ruins of other buildings and carried to the hospital.

At three-quarters past six and a quarter past seven two more shocks were felt. They were, however, slight, and occasioned nothing but a temporary renewal of fright.

The Jersey City Advertiser says the number of hands employed in the enlargement of the Morris canal has been considerably underrated. Instead of twelve hundred, as has been said in the newspapers, the actual number was two thousand some days since, and fifty additional hands were added afterwards. If the weather should be favorable, all the different sections of the enlargement will be completed as far as Newark by the 1st of June, and as the enlargement is now going on between that place and Jersey City, it will not be long before boats of sixty tons will pass the entire length of the canal to the latter.

The Philadelphia United States Gazette states that two editions of Captain Wilkes's Narrative of the Exploring Expedition have already been sold, and that a third is nearly through the press of the publishers, Messrs. Lea & Blanchard, and in a few days will be ready to meet the demands of those who have not yet been able to procure copies. In London, where but four volumes had been issued, it is attracting great attention.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE CLERKS.

The following copy of a "Circular," addressed by the President of the United States to the Heads of Departments, which has been the subject of much conversation and some newspaper comment, we copy from the New York Express, to which paper it had been communicated by a correspondent from Washington:

[CIRCULAR.]

WASHINGTON, APRIL 11, 1845.

SIR: In executing the laws there is no duty which appears to me more imperative than to take care that officers who receive the public money shall promptly and fully perform the duties for which the law appropriates their respective salaries. Justice to the public, and a proper regard for the clearly expressed will of Congress, require that this shall be done. Those who come to the seat of Government on public business should not be unnecessarily delayed by the negligence or inattention of heads of bureaus or clerks connected with the Executive Departments. I therefore invite your attention to the thirteenth section of the act of Congress, approved on the 28th of August, 1842—"An act legalizing and making appropriations for such necessary objects as have been usually included in the general appropriation bills without authority of law, and to fix and provide for certain incidental expenses of the departments and officers of Government, and for other purposes"—and to the twelfth section of the "Act to reorganize the General Land Office," approved on the 4th of July, 1836.

I desire that you will cause the monthly reports, required by the act of 1842, to be regularly made, and that you will transmit them to me.

The law contemplates that the distribution of labor among the clerks shall bear a fair proportion to their compensation; and it is unjust that the meritorious and faithful should have to perform the duties of such as may be found to be negligent, idle, or incompetent. To prevent this injustice, it is essential that each clerk shall attend regularly in his office and discharge his own appropriate duties. It is desired that each head of a bureau shall cause to be made a daily statement, showing the absence of each clerk from his duty during office hours, the causes of such absence as far as he may be able to ascertain them, and that this statement accompany the monthly reports.

I also desire that you will accompany the monthly reports with a statement of any complaints which may be made to you of any clerk in your office who may have contracted debts since his appointment and does not pay them agreeable to contract. Dismissing any right to interfere with the private affairs of officers of Government, I am yet unwilling that they should be embarrassed in the performance of their public duties by the just importunities of disappointed creditors, who trusted them on the faith of their compensation from the Treasury.

Believing that the duties required of the officers and clerks employed in the several Executive Departments are by no means unreasonable, and impressed with the importance of a prompt and efficient despatch of the public business, I desire that you will take measures for the due execution of the laws to which I have called your attention.

Respectfully, yours,

JAMES K. POLK.

FROM BRAZIL.

Advices have been received at Philadelphia from Rio de Janeiro up to the 19th of March—fifteen days later than previous advices. Every thing there was tranquil. The difficulty which existed between the United States' and Brazilian authorities, in reference to the brig *Porpoise*, had been amicably adjusted.

RETURN OF THE MACEDONIAN.

The United States frigate *Macedonian*, Commodore PERREY, from St. Croix, 8th instant, via Porto Rico, anchored outside the bar of New York harbor on Sunday afternoon.

From a letter published in the *Courier and Enquirer* we learn that upon the arrival of the *Macedonian* at Porto Rico the Governor General's Aid went on board and invited the Commodore to become the guest of his Excellency while he remained here. On the following day Admiral LA PLACE, with the French frigates *Antiope* and *Niade* arrived. On Saturday Governor VAS SAGHETTES gave a dinner, to which all officers and citizens of distinction of the island were invited. Subsequently the Governor, Admiral, Commodore, and several gentlemen dined with Major LEONARD, upon his estate at La Grange. On Monday the Governor gave a grand ball in honor of the visit of Admiral LA PLACE and Commodore PERREY. On Tuesday these officers, with a large party, dined with Captain VAS SAGHETTES, who, formerly in the French navy, circumnavigated the world under Admiral LA PLACE. The Commodore was pressed to accept invitations to several fetes by gentlemen who were desirous of testifying their respect for him and for the flag whose honor he sustained, but having determined to get to sea on Wednesday they were necessarily declined.

The officers of the frigate were exceedingly attentive and courteous to the Americans there.

GENERAL CAMERON, THE NEW SENATOR FROM PENNSYLVANIA.—A correspondence is published between the Hon. SIMON CAMERON, the recently elected United States Senator from Pennsylvania, and certain Whig members of the Legislature of that State, in which they propounded the following queries to the General, then a candidate for the place to which he was subsequently elected:

"Are you in favor of the tariff of 1842?" and, if elected to the United States Senate, will you sustain it without change?"

"Are you in favor of the distribution of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands?" and, if elected, will you support this measure?"

To these questions Mr. CAMERON promptly replied, clearly and candidly, in the affirmative. He hesitated not a moment in saying that he is decidedly and unequivocally in favor of the tariff of 1842, and that he will support it in the Senate; that he is in favor of the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands, and that, too, he will advocate and support in the Senate. We do not see, therefore, that there is any doubt as to the course of the new Pennsylvania Senator.

[New York Courier & Enquirer.]

"It is Not So.—The New York Express, a leading Whig paper, says 'Mr. Polk means to run again.' We take leave to deny this once more, in the plainest, most direct and positive terms. He will do nothing of the kind, and we are greatly surprised that the editors of that respectable journal should suppose that such an event was possible under any circumstances. Mr. Polk pledged himself not to be a candidate for re-election, and by this pledge he is abide."—*Madisonian*.

We do not know that the *Madisonian* is the Executive official, but such a prompt unqualified denial as the above, from that paper, would seem to deserve credit. Mr. Polk is not to be a candidate for re-election. The contest, then, will be warm among the candidates for nomination. Mr. Dallas, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Cass, and even Mr. Calhoun, are all on the move; Mr. Dallas, with the advantages of a concentration of friends, but not perhaps such a diffused force as Mr. Cass. Mr. Dallas is strong in Philadelphia, and may be in Delaware and New Jersey; Mr. Buchanan in Pennsylvania. Mr. Cass is strong in west New York and the northwestern States. Then Silas Wright is not to be overlooked.—*United States Gazette*.

THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.

The Charlottesville Advocate of Saturday informs us that the measures adopted for suppressing the late riots at the University of Virginia, and banishing their authors and abettors from the precincts, have been signally successful. Tranquillity has been restored, and the Lectures were resumed on Saturday morning. The Magistrates who have had the subject under investigation intend making a publication of the facts. The Board of Visitors closed their session on Friday, by adopting the subjoined resolutions, intended to mark their entire concurrence in the steps which have led to the restoration of order:

"Resolved, That it be recommended to the Faculty, in case of the recurrence of scenes similar to those which have recently disturbed the peace and good order of the University, to endeavor through their chairman to concert such measures as may be deemed prudent to secure the prompt and efficient aid of the civil authority in preserving the peace and protecting the property of the University.

"Resolved, That it be recommended to the Faculty, through their Chairman, forthwith to address to the parents and guardians of the students of the University a circular letter, setting forth a brief statement of events connected with the recent disturbances, the withdrawal of the civil authority from the precincts, the meeting and adjournment of the Visitors, and the resumption of the lectures and exercises of the Institution."

IOWA.

The people of this Territory having rejected the new Constitution just submitted to them, new plans are put forth. Among others, the Dubuque Express proposes that the Legislature just elected, and which assemblies in May, shall take measures for calling a new Convention to devise another Constitution, with such boundaries as may be acceptable to Congress. Admitting that the boundaries of the State, as defined in the rejected Constitution, were too extensive, the Express proposes that the Missouri river shall be insisted upon as the western boundary, and that a limit shall be adopted on the north which shall exclude Dubuque, Clayton, Delaware, and other counties from the proposed State. The country thus excluded, it is proposed, shall form a new Territory, to be called the Territory of Washington. The boundaries of Iowa will be so much reduced in this way as to relieve Congress from any objection on this score.

LATE FROM THE RIVER LA PLATA.

The barque *Nautilus* has arrived at Baltimore from Buenos Ayres, whence she sailed on the 4th of March. At that time the decree of the Argentine Government, prohibiting the entry of any vessel into Buenos Ayres which had previously touched at Montevideo, was in operation, and there was not a single foreign vessel at the latter port. This decree was issued in consequence of the interference of the French Admiral with the blockade of Montevideo, and its effects will be severely felt.

It is understood that the Hon. WILLIAM BRENT, Jr., United States Chargé d'Affaires, had protested against the interference of the French Admiral, on the ground that European nations should not control political parties among the American Republics. He alleges further, we learn, that the war in the River La Plata has already been continued seven years by reason of the course pursued by the English and French nations.

The provinces of the Argentine Confederation were all in a state of tranquillity, except Corrientes, where Gen. Paz had organized a force of three thousand men. The Argentine Government had near five thousand troops under Gen. GAZON, who was a favorite officer of Bolivar, and who will, it is thought, put an end to the civil war in that quarter. In the Uruguay Republic there had been several skirmishes between the belligerents, and the department of Maldonado was in the hands of the Rivera party. In other parts of the Republic quietness prevailed.

The new French Chargé had presented his credentials, and had been received at Buenos Ayres. A new Brazilian Minister Plenipotentiary had been received at Montevideo.

There was a report in circulation, one or two days before the *Nautilus* sailed, that the Argentine Minister at Rio de Janeiro, Gen. Gido, had demanded his passports, which, if true, will no doubt be given to him. This was occasioned by his demanding satisfaction from the Brazilian Government for granting Gen. Paz leave to set out from Rio de Janeiro and pass through their province to Corrientes.

The decree prohibiting the entry of vessels at Buenos Ayres that touch at Montevideo has had the effect of making the market there still worse, as it is now impossible to sell any articles unless for immediate consumption.—*Baltimore American*.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

The Vera Cruz papers contain intelligence from Guatemala to a late date. On the 1st of February an officer named MARIANO MENDEZ, who was on guard at the public square, liberated the prisoners, took possession of all the barracks, except those of San Francisco, and proclaimed General MONTEROSA Chief of the Republic. Colonel BOLANO, with the troops which remained faithful to the Government, attacked the square the next day, and a short conflict brought the insurgents to terms. They were to leave the city on the 6th, and cease all hostilities under the promise of pardon.

HAYTI.

Late accounts from Jamaica state that HERARD, the ex-President of Hayti, has left Jamaica with a view to regain the chief magistracy of Hayti. Having purchased a vessel for the purpose, he set sail on the 29th of March with the Commissioners who went to Jamaica to urge his return. In the meantime, the plot having been discovered by the interception of some of Herard's letters, the people of Port-au-Prince and Aux Cayes were adopting vigorous measures to frustrate this threatened revolution, the consummation of which, from its early discovery, they hoped effectually to prevent.

A writer in the New York Tribune, alluding to the suggestion made through the columns of that paper a few days ago touching the practicability of connecting this Continent with Europe by means of the Electro-Magnetic Telegraph, says: "This is not a new idea. Professor Morse has long had such a result in view. I have often conversed with him on the subject, and received satisfactory answers to the various difficulties mentioned. His method was similar to that proposed by your correspondent: reeling off from and to abrupt shores any amount of wire—10,000 miles, if it were necessary—having covered more thickly the extremities liable to injury from attrition, and the whole secured from the corrosive effects of sea water. Any danger of the wire parting from its own weight in sinking is obviated by the supporting power of the water and the wire already sunk. There can be no reasonable doubt of the practicability of the plan."

RIFLE SHOOTING.—The editor of the Boston Post says: "He has seen a target the size of a half dollar, into which Dr. Gould, of Lynn, put eleven balls in succession, with a rifle made by Nathaniel Whitmore, of that town, at a distance of twenty rods. A ten cent piece covers ten of the hits, a five cent piece covers nine, and the other shot is far within the edge of the circle."

TRIAL FOR PIRATICAL SLAVE-TRADING.

REPORTED FOR THE BALTIMORE AMERICAN.

U. STATES CIRCUIT COURT.
Present Judges TANEY and HEATH. *United States vs. John L. Pendleton*, Captain of the brig *Montevideo*, partly owned in New York, charged with piracy in being engaged in the slave-trade on the coast of Africa.

After the indictment had been read by the Clerk of the Court, WILLIAM L. MARSHALL, Esq., made an opening statement to the Jury previous to swearing the witnesses.

The witnesses on the part of the United States were then called.

The evidence went to show that the brig *Montevideo*, under the command of a certain Captain Riddell, in October, 1843, shipped a crew in New York for the port of Rio de Janeiro and other parts in the Brazil, and, subsequently, to go to any port where the captain might direct, the period for which the crew was shipped being twelve months. After reaching Rio, and discharging a portion of the cargo, Captain Riddell told one of the witnesses that the vessel had been chartered for eight months to trade upon the coast of Africa. Capt. R. then placed the accused in charge of the vessel as master, and she proceeded on her voyage to the coast, landed part of her cargo in Cabinda, on the Congo river, took some cargo from the vessel called the *Agnes*, lying there, and proceeded out of the vessel called the *Agnes*, lying there, and proceeded to trade along the coast. She then went back to Victoria, in the Brazil. During the voyage the accused told one of the witnesses that the vessel was owned by Captain Riddell, who was a citizen of the United States residing in New York. He also stated that he was navigating the vessel for Captain R., and that he himself was a native of Connecticut, but sailed out of New York. Here she was hove out and repaired. During the period of repairs Captain Pendleton went on shore to live. Previous to this a Portuguese captain and crew had come on board, and, after the vessel was repaired, a quantity of water-casks, amounting to 170 or 180, were taken on board, with a quantity of jerked beef, firing, &c. This cargo was taken on board by the Portuguese crew, while the rigging, &c. was done by the American crew. During the time the vessel was lying at Victoria a deck was made by the Portuguese carpenters, and fitted on the beams below the other deck. It was afterwards taken off, taken apart, the parts marked with white paint, so that they could be refitted, and stowed away in the wings of the vessel. The vessel then left for Cabinda again. When she reached there she discharged some lumber, jerked beef, &c. A small lighter of jerked beef was, however, subsequently placed again on board the vessel. Every thing in relation to the cargo was done by the Portuguese crew, while the Americans navigated the vessel, each crew living separately. After lying at Cabinda for some three or four weeks, on the evening of the 3d of October, 1844, something was said to the crew in reference to an expectation of selling the vessel. Early the next morning the moorings of the vessel were changed, so as to place her in a more favorable position for leaving the harbor, such a change as any seaman might have made to obtain a better chance of the wind. The crew were then told by the mate that the vessel had been sold, and they must get ready to go on shore. About ten o'clock a Portuguese captain, who resided on the coast, went on board the vessel, a bill of sale was signed and read aloud by Capt. Pendleton, and drafts received in exchange. Capt. Pendleton then told the second mate to haul down the American flag and place it in the boat, which was done. The captain, taking his tin case, with his register, &c., and his chronometer, then took one of the boats, directing the balance of the crew to follow with the first mate in the other boat, and to be ready to follow when he should give the word. The crew then went on shore, and the second mate was left on the vessel. On reaching the shore Captain Pendleton went to send some one